the Air India is charging the ticket fare of 2757 Dirham to UAE-Trivandrum–UAE journey.(*Interruptions*) Sir, it is a very vital subject.

The Air India's flight charge is higher for their England–USA and Tokyo flight. Their fare to UAE–Trivandrum–UAE is double the above fare for taking the passengers to the Gulf countries.

Today the Air India is charging 3040 Dirham for the flight to the Gulf from Trivandrum. I want that this amount should be reduced to 2,000 Dirham.

The Air India is telling that the fare structure was decided by the IATA from Geneva. Hence they cannot interfere in the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: It is very very important, Sir. I am coming to the main point.

But various Gulf–Malayalee organisations contacted the IATA authorities in that regard. They replied that the IATA should not be asked to interfere with the fare structure of Air India since the same was finalised after discussion by various countries.

Therefore, Sir, I request the Government of India and the Ministry of Civil Aviation to reconsider the unwanted, unjustified fare charged by the Air India from the Gulf–Malayalee passengers at Trivandrum and Gulf countries.

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY (Howrah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today is the 72nd day of the strike of some jute mill workers of West Bengal. You know that on the 28th January, 1992, the jute mill workers of West Bengal started an indefinite strike to realise not only their payments and wages, but also for determining man–machine ratio, the problem of *badli* workers and the problems of production and productivity which are the nodal points of the industry itself. Through the historic struggle, the workers could come to a settlement, on the one hand by increasing a bit of their wages and on the other hand, by setting up a committee to go deep into the basic problems of the industry. But some of the owners are disregarding this welcome development. Three of such delinquent owners belong to my constituency. They are the owners of Amb Mill, Ianuran Jute Mill and Tirupati Jute Mill. A total of about 8,000 workers are involved in the process. I have visited the *basti* of the workers and I found that the workers are facing a lot of miseries.

Besides, the authorities of Baranagar Jute Mill and the North Brooke Jute Mill have refused to implement the agreement that they signed on 17th March and as a result, the strike has been continuing in these five mills. The Labour Minister of West Bengal has taken active initiative to settle the dispute, but till now the problems have not been solved. The Central Government is looking at the things from a distance and sometimes it is issuing sermons from Delhi. It transpires from their behaviour that they have nothing to do in the matter. I therefore demand, through you Sir, that in line with the tripartite agreement arrived at very recently, Textile Ministry should take up the issue and intervene to bring these errant and delinquent entrepreneurs to book, because they are defaulters in payment of Provident Fund, ESI benefits and many other statutory obligations that are under the purview of the Central Government. So, the Labour Minister and the Textiles Minister should jointly and actively intervene in the matter.

[*Translation*]

SHR SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharasa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I

would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very serious problem. A railway line connects the Mansi Junction of Bihar to the Saharasa junction and this line dates back to the time of the Britishers. Many trains run on this line. The train which should run at a speed of 40 kilometre per hour runs at a speed of merely 10–15 kilometres in this area. Every year the Railway Division undertakes repair operations. This being a border area I would like the Railway Ministry to include the proposal for changing the metre gauge line between Mansi Junction and Saharasa Junction into broad gauge in this year's Railway Budget so that the inconvenience to crores of people could be removed.

[*English*]

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the news item of *Hindustan Times* today, which says: 'Lanka fears LTTE–Naval Instruction! The fears of Sri Lankan Naval Vice Admiral Shri Ciancy Fernando are unfounded and his statement is misleading our Indian newsmen. The Indo–Sri Lanka Accord of 1974 is quite clear that Indian fishermen have every right to catch fish near Katchatheevu and dry their nets and catches at Katchatheevu. But our fishermen are often attacked and harassed when they fish near Katchatheevu. Shri Ciancy Fernando is giving bogus news saying that the Sri Lankan Navy refrained from taking action against genuine Indian fishermen despite the fact that they violate the international law every time when they fish in Sri Lankan territorial waters. But, this is not the fact. He further says that about 400 fishing trawlers are found in Palk Strait on April 7. There cannot be 400 trawlers putting Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu together. So, this is a bogus news given by the Vice–Admiral of Sri Lanka against our fishermen.

His further statement is that India has been doing a yeoman's service in containing the LTTE and according to Indian Intelligence LTTE traffic has virtually ended. So, it is quite clear that the Vice–Admiral's fear is unfounded.

So, the misleading news about our fishermen should be rectified by the Sri Lankan Government.

I want our Government to clarify the truth to the Sri Lankan Government and to protect the interests of our fishermen who are being often harassed by Sri Lanka Navy and Sri Lanka Army.

SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI (Amalapuram): Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise this important matter during Zero Hour.

At present, in our country lot of educated people have been suffering with unemployment. In this situation, it is not possible for the Government to provide employment for all these people. Hence only the small–scale industries can provide better employment to these people. Also there is good scope to earn foreign exchange through these smallscale industries. This sector also meets many needs of the people.

Hence I request you to bring out a Central Government Order to the 1894 Land Acquisition Act so as to enable the employed to acquire land locally in either village areas or town areas and start their own small–scale industries, cottage and village industries through which they can provide employment for themselves and they can provide employment for others also and thus improve the backward areas.

Through you, I request the Central Government to take necessary immediate action in the aforesaid case.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum):